



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A BLOOMING AGENDA

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ABSTRACT

One of the most prevalent types of violence against women is “Domestic Violence”, which has gained international attention. The violence is something we see on a daily basis and has become so ingrained in society that it is no longer seen as a serious problem that needs to be addressed. However, the effect is profound, causing anguish and leaving the person numb. Even with the government’s implementation of several acts of protection for women, there is still a proliferation of various forms of violence against women in India.

The question of whether the acts are effective still stands. Are all these acts able to protect women from the hands of men? Should women depend on the acts for their safety? To safeguard one from the cruel treatment of the society, women are being taught and brought up to behave like a woman should but they society ignore the fact that the perpetrator must be the one to put an end to his pathetic behaviour towards women. Only than women will be safe and sound.

According to this survey, there is still widespread violence against women in the nation, preventing women from leaving regardless of their class or rank. Did women deserve this treatment? Why women do suffers in the hands of another human being? Should we blame the government? Should we blame the society? Who is responsible for these suffering? The answers lie within us and it’s as simple as that. When we respect one, when we respect others as a human being and not based on gender, when we accept that we all are equal and play equal role in the family and society. In this modern age when a girl child is born there are societies who still curse the mother and the child while a big celebration was held when a boy was added in the family.

KEYWORDS: Women, Worldwide, Emotional, Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Harassment, Domestic Violence

INTRODUCTION

First of all, since women are viewed as a weaker and more vulnerable group, violence against them has existed at all levels in every civilization and is recognized as normal. The prevalence of domestic violence against women is at an all-time high and is rapidly expanding worldwide. Despite age differences, it is a significant problem that the majority of women in every community encounter. Women of the current generation have seen and experienced psychological, physical, and emotional abuse.

Domestic violence: What is it?

Domestic violence is defined as violence committed against another person by spouses or family members in a domestic context. This abuse can take the form of physical, emotional, or sexual assault. While women make up the great majority of victims of domestic abuse, parents, children, and the elderly might also fall victim to this crime occasionally. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one in three women may experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives. Research indicates a noteworthy correlation between a nation with elevated levels of gender inequality and a corresponding decrease in domestic violence. Specifically, higher levels of gender inequality are inevitably associated with higher rates of domestic violence. Domestic abuse is probably the most unreported crime in the world for both men and women, despite being a protracted, unresolved, and unfinished conflict.

METHODOLOGY

Secondary data gathered from a variety of sources, including government papers, articles, books and journals, forms the basis of this analysis.

The main causes of domestic violence are:

Our traditional and cultural values contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence by giving the abuser the impression that their actions are normal and justified, thereby giving them the right to carry out their abusive behaviour. Because of our customs and culture, men are expected to assume roles in the home and community that reflect their superiority over women and their ability to abuse and take advantage of their partners and family members. Since women are seen as the weaker members of society, they were raised to be modest, obedient, and to treat males with great respect because it is how they were meant to behave. The practice of gender inequality within the home is greatly influenced by parents, particularly the mother. Although they are their child’s primary educators, they neglected the needs of the girl child in favour of the boy child. Since they were young, girls’ needs and voices have not been heard or recognized, and the majority of them grow up to accept the unfair treatment they receive from their own parents. Most of the time, women who are victims suffer in silence because they are frightened to speak out or because they think their family would be embarrassed if the issue was made public. Women experience suffering in many forms both within and outside of the home, and one of the worst stigmas

against them is domestic abuse. In addition to becoming a common occurrence, domestic abuse of women was accepted as a necessary condition for the harmonious coexistence of the family and society. Particular types of domestic violence, like honour killings, dowry murders, and forced marriages, have received more attention lately. In India, efforts have been undertaken in the last few decades to reduce dowry abuse. The Protection of Women from Domestic abuse Act was passed in 2005 as a result of years of campaigning and advocacy by women's organizations. On October 26, 2006, the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Indian Government put this Act into effect. In order to raise awareness of domestic violence, purple ribbons are worn.

Another main cause of domestic abuse can be put up on family poor financial status. When family are financially unstable or living in hand to mouth condition, in this scenario it is worst case especially when the male member is an alcoholic. When he did not get what he wants it is the female in the family that bear the brunt of his action. Majority of the women suffers in the hands of her own family and partner. Women have been and are still living and enduring this pathetic lifestyle. As compared to family with stable financial status women in poor family suffers more. It is the stigma of a woman as Domestic Abuse does not differentiate whether the women belong to high society or from a poor society, but suffer from the same fate.

Domestic Violence Types:

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is defined as causing pain, suffering, trauma, and injury to the body. According to the World Health Organization, intimate partners are responsible for 38% of female killings. Due to the serious consequences that domestic abuse causes for both the mother and the child just after childbirth, pregnant women are more vulnerable to becoming victims of it than anybody else. Some of the prevalent physical abuses that still happen to women for rejecting arranged marriages or men's proposals include acid attacks, honor killings, and dowry killings. In India, dowry killings happen from time to time; in 2011, 8,618 dowry fatalities were registered by the National Crime Records Bureau. Most women were not immune to the brutality of dowries, particularly those from middle-class families who could not meet the high expectations of the groom's family. Non-consensual sexual assault occurs during marriage and involves a partner. Most of the time, it was underreported, under punished, and allowed in many nations. The first international treaty to address child sexual abuse within the home and family was the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

Emotional and Psychological Abuse: This type of abuse encompasses verbal mistreatment, manipulation, harassment, and depletion of mental well-being. Psychological abuse that persists over time can seriously impair a person's self-esteem and cause mental health problems that can lead to self-harm or even death. This kind of abuse disembowels the victim, who feels as though they have no control over their life and has a negative impact on the self-power dynamic. Anxiety and sadness are frequent experiences for the victim, which raises

the likelihood of eating disorders, drug and alcohol addiction, abuse, and suicide. The effects of this usage extend beyond what is initially observed on the outside.

Economic Abuse: In this type of abuse, a partner denies a person access to money or seizes control of it. The victim's ability to sustain oneself is reduced when control over their financial resources is seized, restricting what they can use or purchase. Economic abuse can have very serious implications because most women in society are unemployed and rely heavily on men's money for daily necessities. In most cases, marital assets are exploited as a way of control over the victim.

Effects of Domestic Abuse on Women and Children Wellness:

Domestic violence does not only affect women; the majority of children also have violent parents. This kind of violence does the victim considerable harm to their health in addition to physical suffering and injury. It also destroys the victim's emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Children who witness abuse and who grow up in an abusive home and environment have severe emotional, behavioural, and intellectual difficulties. The worst part of experiencing domestic abuse is that it often leaves the victim with severe long-term effects, including persistent anxiety and panic that are likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for panic disorder and generalized anxiety disorder. The victim also faces a high risk of developing increased stress, anxiety, fear, and depression as long as they continue to live with the perpetrator. The psychological impact of domestic violence that is most frequently discussed is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is typified by intrusive visions, nightmares, an enhanced startle reaction, flashbacks, and avoidance of triggers connected to the abuse.

When children get older, they typically grow up to become:

- more likely to react violently around friends and at school;
- more likely to commit crimes;
- more likely to take drugs;
- more likely to commit suicide;
- more likely to use violence as a way to boost their self-esteem; -more likely to become abusers in the future;
- more likely to experience mental trauma.

Discussion

The primary cause for women to put up with such mistreatment is still their lack of financial and economic independence. Because two thirds of women rely on their partners, they have no option but to put up with the marriage or tolerate it for as long as it lasts.

The second reason was that our culture and traditions are ingrained in our society. Society placed more value on our culture than on the victim's and women's emotional health. The victim's family is more conscious of how society would view them and how it will impact their pride and status in the family. As a result, the victim's voice is ignored, and the abusive conduct is continued.

CONCLUSION

the government has put in place a number of laws to protect women, advance them to higher positions, and put them on an equal footing with males. Women experience hardships and problems both inside and beyond the house, often at the hands of their own relatives. For a society to be healthy, women's emotional and psychological well-being must be given priority, and women's protection must start at home. Despite these efforts, there are still a number of abuses that occur, and laws and bills by themselves are insufficient to stop violence against women. A shift in perspective is necessary since it is the foundation of all of an individual's behavior.

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